

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2011**

PRESENT

Steven Froot
Michael Heller
Joyce Pilsner
Philip Friedman
Karen Pesce
Steven Balicer
Sylvia Alexander
Beverly Fettman
Xaxia Sanchez
Dana Lennon

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair
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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The minutes of the October 17, 2011 meeting were considered and approved.

Chairperson's Report

The Chair announced that the Board had arranged with the Borough President's Office for free flu shots to be provided by the Visiting Nurse Service that morning at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Marble Hill.

The Chair asked Sylvia Alexander to report on a smoke-free housing forum that had been held at the Riverdale Y, with Housing Chair Tom Durham on the panel. Ms. Alexander explained that a co-op can declare itself smoke-free, and that harmful effects of smoking include fire risks and health risks from second-hand smoke. There was discussion of the legality of such restrictions in the residential context, and a comparison to restrictions now in place in commercial buildings and workplaces.

Follow-Up Business

Health screening: The Chair reported that despite prior arrangements, Promesa was not able to send personnel to offer blood pressure and diabetes testing at the Riverdale Festival of the arts. They did, however, have a representative present to answer questions about their health services.

There was discussion about arranging health screening at other scheduled community events such as Riverfest or possibly at a health/nutrition fair at a local school or in a venue like Van Cortland Park on the weekend. Steve Froot committed to follow up with Riverfest organizers, and it was suggested that Mount St. Vincent's nursing program might become involved. It was also pointed out that M.S.IH.S.141 may have a relationship with a medical professional who is a resource on nutrition.

Xaxia Sanchez discussed HIV testing provided by Harlem United, which would require an enclosed space to accommodate privacy considerations. It was suggested that a local church might be an appropriate venue, and Ms. Sanchez agreed to investigate having a presenter from Harlem United address the Committee.

Karen Pesce reported that Planned Parenthood has a minivan and mobile medical unit for events to provide STD, HIV and pregnancy testing, as well as information about birth control.

The Vice Chair reported that Montefiore appears to have a dental van available for events. He will continue to explore St. Barnabas for mobile services. Mr. Froot noted that HHSS member Madeline Ginzburg previously indicated state and local dental associations in which she was involved could provide dental screening at events.

Dana Lennon said Morris Heights Health Center has a van available on short notice that can perform HIV, diabetes and blood pressure screening.

Committee members suggested other health outreach possibilities, such as podiatry (Steve Balicer), fall prevention (Karen Pesce), alcoholism and mental health (Joyce Pilsner) and domestic violence (Beverly Fettman). Ms. Pilsner also mentioned that NYC DOHMH has many types of health literature brochures that can be made available to the Board for distribution.

Take Care NY: This is a project of NYC DOHMH in the nature of a certification, which encourages individuals and organizations to participate by achieving goals such as a smoke free environment, participation in health initiatives, etc. Mike Heller pointed out the difficulty of determining how the Board can directly become involved, while Mr. Balicer indicated that in some respects the CB 8 already meets the requirements of Take Care NY, such as having organized several youth markets in cooperation with other community based organizations.

New Business

Phil Friedman suggested the Committee start to think about identifying budget items for the next fiscal year, focusing on local health and social service organizations that might be appropriate. A brief discussion took place as to organizations that might be candidates beyond those the committee previously considered.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Prepared by Michael Heller, Vice Chair
Approved by Steven Froot, Chair
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee